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HIGHER EDUCATION SOLUTIONS NETWORK - ANNUAL REPORT (FY 2013)

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Acronyms

AAEA	Agricultural and Applied Economics Association
AKDN	Aga Khan Development Network
APLU	Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
C&D/ ConDev	Conflict and Development
CDF	Conflict and Development Foundation
COALS	College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
DC	District of Columbia
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
FCAS	Fragile and Conflict Affected States
HESN	Higher Education Solutions Network
HGBF	Howard G. Buffett Foundation
IAS	Institution Assessment Survey
IES	Institute for Economic Stability
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
ITA	Innovation, technology, or approach
KOICA	Korean International Cooperation Agency
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
SRPH	School of Rural Public Health
TAMU	Texas A&M University
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

Executive Summary

During the first year of program implementation from October 1, 2012- September 30, 2013, the C&D Lab established a foundational structure, programmatic frameworks and processes, and a student engagement system. All staff positions were filled, operating procedures were established, and student programs were initiated. Major events included the HESN launch event in Washington, D.C., the launch of the C&D Lab at TAMU, and the C&D Strategy Workshop in Washington, D.C. Recognition by the university was bolstered by a visit from USAID staff that included the head of the HESN project, Dr. Alex Dehgan, who presented a seminar and met with high-level TAMU administrators and faculty. Another high profile figure visit was from Ambassador Jendayi Frazer, a well-known practitioner in the field of conflict and development, who presented a lecture on peace strategies for DRC to faculty and students. Dr. Frazer now holds an appointment with the Political Science Department as an Executive Professor through the C&D Lab. The successful launch events, high profile seminars, and student activities have given the C&D Lab a strong presence on campus eliciting student and faculty seeking out interactions with the C&D Lab.

The C&D Lab created a framework for our vision and mission largely based on the C&D Strategy Workshop, publicized and expanded the work of the Strategic Analytics Lab, and disseminated knowledge through several student engagement initiatives. These student engagement initiatives have included providing a new course on the Economics of Conflict and Development, designing a C&D Certificate, establishing the C&D Internship Program, organizing a seminar series, and collaborating through a Capstone Course. The internship program proved to be productive with students developing an assessment tool, innovative methods for data collection, and writing significant portions of the M&E Plan and quarterly reports. We continued with our Student Media Grants Program by promoting the blog of our first student grant recipient and requesting new applications for the next call for grants. Additionally, the C&D Lab has strengthened key partnerships at TAMU by creating Senior Advisor positions and initiated collaborative opportunities with fellow HESN member institutions. Importantly, the C&D Lab maintained close coordination with USAID counterparts both at the Washington, D.C. and in-country mission level throughout program implementation. The C&D Lab looks forward to building upon the dynamic momentum created during the first year as we look towards placing programs on the ground during our second year.

Part I: Major Milestones and Events Completed

I.1. Milestones

This year the C&D Lab has accomplished several key milestones:

- **Designed and organized the C&D Strategy Workshop; Implemented the resulting framework**

The C&D Strategy Workshop engaged researchers and practitioners across the Texas A&M System, USAID representatives, partner higher education institutions, foundations, private sector firms, NGOs, and institutional representatives from fragile and conflict-affected states to ensure a broad spectrum of stakeholders contributing to the C&D Lab's programmatic and research agenda. The results of the C&D Strategy Workshop aided in framing and prioritizing issues concerning development interventions and policy responses in fragile and conflict-affected states. Based on discussions from the workshop, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burma, South Sudan, and Afghanistan were selected as the C&D Lab's focal countries. Four key questions were identified as drivers of peace building:

- How to engage youth populations through workforce development linked to jobs?
- How do legitimate local institutions redirect elite competition and promote cooperation dynamics?
- How can natural resource management be used as a peace-building approach?
- How to design interventions that build upon local coping strategies to incentivize food security and promote resilience?

Additionally, four cross-cutting themes were determined important for all projects:

- Generate meaningful and actionable data and analysis that fills knowledge gaps
- Fully integrate gender in all research and solutions
- Identify and test innovative applications of information and communications technology
- Partner with local research institutions to generate solutions for and by the local population

We authored a report synthesizing the outcomes of the workshop that will be published in the next year. The outcomes of the workshop have informed nearly all of our activities this year through focus, planning, and strategizing future activities.

- **Continue ongoing research and strengthening the existing database at the Strategic Analytics Lab**

C&D Lab staff, faculty, and students have continued ongoing research that utilizes macro databases and other data assets to help understand underlying relationships among poverty, food security, technology, development assistance and conflict. Additionally, the C&D Lab has input, coded, and aggregated additional micro and macro data to expand existing databases.

- **Established student engagement activities through providing an Economics of Conflict & Development undergraduate and graduate course, designing a certificate in conflict and development, founding the C&D Academy, providing a interdisciplinary seminar series, and collaborating with the Bush School for Government and Public Service through a Capstone Project**

The C&D Lab has disseminated or has initiated activities that will disseminate conflict and development knowledge and training. First, the C&D Lab provided an undergraduate and graduate course on the “Economics of Conflict and Development” at Texas A&M University in the Spring 2013 term. Second, eight graduate students are funded by C&D to conduct their thesis research on conflict and development. Third the C&D Lab designed and submitted the C&D Certificate program to TAMU academic administration for review, processing, and approval. Fourth, faculty and staff affiliated with the C&D Lab organized several workshops, meetings, and activities to increase student engagement with the C&D Lab and the HESN. Fifth, the C&D Lab has created an interdisciplinary seminar series that highlights subject areas associated with each of our core partners. Sixth, the C&D Lab collaborated with the Bush School of Government and Public Service through a Capstone Project in the Spring 2013 semester and has plans to broaden and increase the scope and number of Capstone Projects in the future.

- **C&D Lab Internship Program established**

The C&D Lab created an internship program for students interested in working with conflict and development issues. We chose the Bush School of Government and Public Service, where internships are a graduation requirement, as our initial partner for the summer 2013 session. We offered opportunities in the areas of research, program management, and reporting procedures. The Bush School’s Director of Career and Student Services organized activities within the graduate school by advertising summer opportunities and collating applications for the C&D Lab. The C&D Lab staff interviewed prospective applicants and selected the most qualified and motivated students for internships. During the internship, students were required to work on their projects, attend weekly meetings, and provide presentations on their projects to fellow interns and C&D Lab staff. Midway through the internship, we asked students to review their experiences and provide feedback to strengthen the program and their experiences. C&D Lab supervisors provided a performance evaluation back to the Bush School at the end of the internship in August. The C&D Lab Internship Program has been very successful and is an important step in our efforts to actively engage students in C&D Lab activities.

- **Institutional Assessment Visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo**

In September of 2013, a C&D Lab team consisting of Dr. Ed Price, Dr. Jendayi Frazer, Dr. Ben Tkach, and Mr. Jerry Kenney traveled to DRC for an initial institutional assessment visit. While there, the team met with local institutions and universities in Kinshasa, Butembo, Goma, and other areas in DRC. At the conclusion of the trip, multiple potential partners were identified including the Catholic University of Graben as the possible site for a C&D capstone course. Mr. Kenney will put together a trip report and share information about institutions and universities on our website.

I.2. Events

Several key events occurred during the inaugural year for the C&D Lab:

- **HESN Launch in Washington, DC – November 5 – 9, 2012**
Core staff and TAMU partners of the C&D Lab participated in the HESN Launch hosted by USAID. At the launch event the C&D Lab attended scheduled events and made contact with other HESN member institutions and USAID staff.
- **C&D Photographic Exhibit - November 12, 2012 – March 31, 2013**
“The Nexus of Animals, Environment, and the Human Condition: a multi-gallery exhibition exploring the nexus between conflict, wildlife, agriculture, the environment, and humans through the lens of Howard G. Buffett”. One hundred photographs by Mr. Howard G. Buffett were on display at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, the Texas A&M Memorial Students Center Forsyth Gallery, and the Kleberg Animal Sciences Building. The displays were seen by hundreds of visitors.
- **C&D Core Team Retreat in Bastrop, Texas: December 12 – 14, 2012**
The core C&D Lab staff and advisors met for a two-day retreat to conduct strategic planning. The team retreat provided an opportunity for all core staff and advisors to focus on identifying and addressing objectives, timelines, and resource targets for the HESN award.
- **Introductory HESN/USAID visit to TAMU: December 17 – 19, 2012**
The C&D Lab hosted Michelle L’Archeveque, Malcom Phelps, and Joseph Hewitt, the primary USAID support team, for two days in College Station, Texas. Meetings focused on making contacts with potential partners at TAMU, providing the background and objectives of the HESN, and conducting preliminary planning activities.
- **C&D Launch at TAMU: January 24 – 25, 2013**
The C&D Lab hosted Larry Garber for the formal launch of the C&D Lab at TAMU. The C&D Launch was held at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum and included speeches by representatives of the C&D Lab, Bush School, COALS, and SRPH, and USAID. Additionally, Larry Garber presented a lecture to the TAMU community and participated in general planning sessions for the C&D Lab. Dozens of students, faculty, and staff attended the lecture, filling the room to the point of standing-room only.
- **C&D Trip to Washington, DC: February 6 – 8, 2013**
C&D staff as well as members of the affiliated capstone group attended meetings with USAID bureaus and offices related to conflict and development.
- **Conflict & Development Strategy Workshop in Washington, DC: April 23 – 25, 2013**
The C&D Lab hosted a workshop in Washington, D.C. to identify the programmatic foci of the C&D Lab. The three main workshop sessions focused on human and institutional capital and conflict, natural resources and conflict, and science and technology in food security and conflict. Representatives from the C&D Lab included Dr. Edwin Price, Dr. Shahriar Kibriya, Jerry Kenney, Meaghan Kenney, Vicente Partida, and Caitlin Shaw. An average of fifty-five attendees per day resulted in approximately 150 participants in total. In addition, hundreds of visitors watched the webcast at condevcenter.org/workshop and dozens more viewed the YouTube video (<http://goo.gl/IUy1MI>). Following the workshop, the C&D Lab wrote a report outlining the outcomes from the sessions.

- Dr. Alex Dehgan, Science and Technology Advisor to the Administrator and Director of USAID, Dr. Ticora Jones, USAID Senior Advisor, and Michelle L'Archeveque, Presidential Management Fellow visit: May 1-3, 2013**
 The C&D Lab hosted Dr. Alex Dehgan, Dr. Ticora Jones, and Ms. Michelle L'Archeveque of USAID at Texas A&M University. Dr. Dehgan presented an open lecture "Transforming International Development through Science, Technology, and Innovation" attended by over 200 students and faculty representing twenty-one different TAMU areas of study. The lecture was recorded and uploaded to YouTube (<http://goo.gl/4Rl44j>) where it received 111 views. Dr. Dehgan met with the President of TAMU, Dr. Bowen Loftin; TAMU's Provost, Dr. Karan Watson; and attended a meeting with the Deans. In addition, Dr. Dehgan, Dr. Ticora Jones, and Michelle L'Archeveque attended a presentation by the C&D Lab and Bush School of Government and Public Service's student Capstone class.
- Ambassador Jendayi Frazer of Carnegie Mellon University visit: June 16- 17, 2013**
 The C&D Lab hosted Ambassador Jendayi Frazer of Carnegie Mellon University at Texas A&M University. She presented an open lecture, "A Roadmap to Sustainable Peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo" to C&D Lab members and the broader TAMU community. More than sixty-five students, faculty, and staff were attendance. The lecture was recorded and posted on YouTube where it has been viewed sixty times. Dr. Frazer also consulted with professors from multiple university departments and institutions, including the Borlaug Institute and the Political Science Department.
- Texas A&M Memorial Student Center Open House: September 1, 2013**
 Three graduate student workers for the C&D Lab hosted an information table at the undergraduate open house for four hours. During the open house, ninety-three students visited the table, received information about student engagement opportunities and signed up to get further information through our listserv. These students, both undergraduate and graduate, represented forty-four different majors from eleven colleges across the TAMU campus.
- Graduate Student Engagement Workshop: September 6, 2013**
 Dr. Leslie Ruyle gave an informational lecture about the C&D Lab for interested TAMU graduate students. Students then participated in a discussion about what events they would be most interested in and ways that they would like to be involved in Lab activities. There were thirty-three participants representing twelve majors from four colleges.
- Wenjuan Chen Brownbag: September 17, 2013**
 Wenjuan Chen, a TAMU Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, gave a presentation about the impact of environmental, social, and economic factors on rural household incomes in Inner Mongolia, China. The event had forty-four participants representing nine majors from four colleges. The brownbag presentation was posted on YouTube (<http://goo.gl/T2PqzC>) and has received thirty-four views.
- Deadline for Student Media Grants Program (SMGP 2013) Proposals: September 23, 2013**
 The C&D Lab received twenty-five proposals from various universities, including TAMU, Michigan State University, and University of California-Berkeley. Of the submissions, four were sent from students attending overseas universities, one from Brazil, two from Pakistan, and one from Kenya. Students submitted proposals to work in twenty-one different countries.

Currently, the C&D Lab is in the process of judging proposals and will announce winners before the end of the fall semester in December.

- **C&D Faculty and Student Social: September 27, 2013**

The C&D Lab hosted a social event for students, faculty, and partners. More than seventy participants were in attendance.

I.3. Publications

The C&D Lab has the following list of publications for the year:

- Price, E., Kibriya, S. and Zhang, Y. "The Dilemma of Biodiversity and Specialization in Agricultural Development", *Journal of Development and Agricultural Economics*. Vol. 5(5), pp. 168-173, May 2013.
- Kibriya, S., Zhang, Y. and Price, E. "Can World Peace be built on Empty Stomachs", Submitted to *Development Policy Review*.
- Kibriya, S., Price, E. and Bessler, D. "Urban poverty, rural poverty, and income inequality: The case study of pre-reform India", Under Review *Asian Economic Journal*.
- Kibriya, S., Price, E. and Boadu, F. 2013. "Food security, agricultural production and conflict of rural Liberia." *HGBF Monograph*. Conflict and Development Laboratory, Texas A&M University, USA.
- Kibriya, S., Price, E. and Ishdorj, A. F. 2013. "Food security and agricultural production of rural Senegal." *HGBF Monograph*. Conflict and Development Laboratory, Texas A&M University, USA.
- Kibriya, S. and Price, E. "Food security and agricultural production of rural Ghana." *HGBF Monograph*, August 2013.
- Kibriya, S. and Price, E. 2013. "An analysis of Rural African food security." *HGBF Monograph*. Conflict and Development Laboratory, Texas A&M University, USA.
- Price, E., Kibriya, S. and Mohammad, M. "Agribusiness development in Kurdistan, Iraq: Factors in post conflict recovery." *HGBF Monograph*, November 2012.
- Kibriya, S., Zhang, Y., Bessler, D. and Price, E. "Aid and peace: Cause, perceptions and consequences." IDEAS Working Paper. Presented at AAEA conference.
- Kibriya, S., Bessler, D., Chen, J. and Price, E. "Effects on commodity prices on conflict: The case of Sudan."
- Ghimire, N., Kibriya, S. and Price, E. 2013. "War-induced displacement spell and food security nexus in Liberia."
- Price, E. "Business and development opportunities in Democratic Republic of Congo." *HGBF Monograph*, August 2013.

I.4. Communications

The C&D Lab has used social networks and websites to engage with people interested in the Lab's work throughout the last year. The C&D website and social media pages are frequently updated with photos, links, and event advertisements. The C&D Lab's twitter account has 176 followers and has sent 375 tweets this year. The Facebook page has had 156 "Likes" and thousands of users have been reached. The Lab's Google+ account has forty-four contacts and the Lab hosts Google Hangouts for viewers who are unable to personally attend events. The C&D Lab has uploaded fourteen YouTube videos which have been viewed 505 times equaling 3,817 total minutes watched and has six regular subscribers. In addition, many of our videos have been aired on the C&D website.

The C&D Lab has been working to establish a fully integrated website within TAMU and hopes to launch the website by November 2013. The temporary website has been visited 5,912 times and 63.4% of visits are done by new visitors. The C&D Lab has also created marketing materials, including flyers and banners to advertise events and engage TAMU students, faculty, and staff.

The following is a list of major press releases, articles, editorials, etc.:

- **November 8, 2012:** WTAW.com: *A&M Selected for Federal Global Initiative*. Link: <http://goo.gl/mW6Yo>
- **November 9, 2012:** TAMUTimes: *Texas A&M Selected By USAID For Key Role In Solving International Development Challenges*. Link: <http://goo.gl/QJHry>
- **November 9, 2012:** The Battalion: *Texas A&M named partner in global solutions network*. Link: <http://goo.gl/BTx17>
- **November 11, 2012:** George Bush Presidential Library and Museum: *Conflict & Development: The Nexus of Animals, Environment, and the Human Condition*. Link: <http://goo.gl/fpb8G>
- **November 12, 2012:** College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Student Blog: *Texas A&M Selected By USAID For Key Role In Solving International Development Challenges*. Link: <http://goo.gl/i71jt>
- **February 4, 2013:** AgriLife Today: *Proposed Center on Conflict and Development unveiled at Texas A&M*. Link: <http://goo.gl/zXZG4>
- **April 23, 2013:** TAMUTimes: *Center on Conflict & Development Workshop Webcasting Now*. Link: <http://goo.gl/Xmiu9>
- **April 30, 2013:** AgriLife Today: *Media Advisory, Conflict & Development at Texas A&M Hosting Lecture*. Link: <http://goo.gl/cdIXj>
- **April 29, 2013:** TAMUTimes: *Lecture at Texas A&M Offers Chance to Win Scholarships, Thursday May 2*. Link: <http://goo.gl/dolgc>
- **May 7, 2013:** ConDev Lecture Series: *Alex Dehgan presentation posted on YouTube and shared on website and social media*. Link: <http://goo.gl/4hcVaO>

- **June 7, 2013:** Student Media Grants Program 2012 Winner began his work in Guatemala. Link: <http://goo.gl/3dOQZb>
- **June 10, 2013:** Request for Proposals open for Student Media Grants Program 2013. Link: <http://goo.gl/EMQhiX>
- **June 18, 2013:** Conflict & Development Strategy Workshop Outcomes posted on website. Link: <http://goo.gl/MPvilP>
- **June 19, 2013:** C&D Newsletter is released to 3500 subscribers. Link: <http://goo.gl/bC29Ef>
- **July 9, 2013:** ConDev Lecture Series: Jendayi Frazer presentation posted on YouTube and shared on website and social media. Link: <http://goo.gl/kUWz6O>
- **July 30, 2013:** *Conflict and the Impending Flood of Congolese Refugees*, blog post by Gavin Finnegan, ConDev Intern in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Link: <http://goo.gl/FnPkbn>
- **August 8, 2013:** AgriLife TODAY/ ConDev Press Release: *SMGP Opens to Students Worldwide*. Link: <http://goo.gl/n6YOeQ>
- **August 13, 2013:** TAMUTimes: *Conflict & Development At Texas A&M Announces Student Photojournalism Grant*. Link: <http://goo.gl/39iZaI>
- **August 21, 2013:** *Some Final (Well, Not Final) Thoughts on Guatemala*. Student Media Grants Program 2012 Winner, Chris Bielecki, ends his project in Guatemala. Link: <http://goo.gl/fNGTV6>
- **Aug. 28, 2013:** Interview on radio show *Latinos on the Hill* inviting students to submit proposals for the Student Media Grants Program 2013 round of RFPs at Prairie View A&M. Invited by Dr. Amparo Navarrete: [LINK](#)
- **September 12, 2013:** *Thanks for Attending the First C&D Graduate Student Workshop* by Dr. Leslie Ruyle. Link: <http://goo.gl/xdrIOV>
- **September 13, 2013:** *ConDev Brown Bag Seminars: Impacts of Environmental, Social, and Economic Factors on Rural Household Income in Xilin Gol, Inner Mongolia*. Link: <http://goo.gl/smvI3m>
- **September 18, 2013:** Big Ideas at Berkeley Contest Opens to Texas A&M Students. Link: <http://goo.gl/qwGvSb>
 - Campaign has included a series of blog and social media posts not included here but can be found at condevcenter.org
- **September 25, 2013:** Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences: *UC Berkeley Extends Contest Invite to A&M Students*. Link: <http://goo.gl/txSsdi>
- **September 25, 2013:** ConDev Brown Bag: The Big Earthwatch Debate on Wildlife Trafficking. Link: <http://goo.gl/CZHr8n>

- **September 27, 2013:** ConDev Lecture Series: Local Geography of Transnational Terrorist Attacks with Mike Findley. Link: <http://goo.gl/GjWhHk>

Part 2: Description of Key Activities

2.1. Annual Objectives

List, according to your workplan, the objectives you aimed to complete during this fiscal year. Include your numbering system to allow for referencing your workplan.

The C&D Lab focused on all three of our objectives this year:

- **C&D Lab Objective 1:** Inform better solutions to development challenges facing fragile and conflict-affected countries through data collection, analysis, and integration.
- **C&D Lab Objective 2:** Identify, assess, and foster scaling of development solutions for fragile and conflict-affected countries.
- **C&D Lab Objective 3:** Expand the community of problem solvers to create a global network addressing development challenges in fragile and conflict-affected countries.

2.2. Summary of Key Activities and Outcomes

Provide a description of key activities undertaken in this fiscal year and what the outcomes were/are. Please be exhaustive and include all activities and how they measure against the objectives you established. Indicate if there are any activities that are no longer on schedule and your plan for ensuring completion.

Objective 1: Inform better solutions to development challenges facing fragile and conflict-affected countries through data collection, analysis, and integration

The C&D Lab finalized a standardized process for evaluating prospective ITAs for funding.

IR 1.1: Identify, define, and prioritize development challenges facing fragile and conflict-affected countries

IR 1.2: Collect, organize, and analyze data related to development interventions in fragile and conflict-affected countries

- **Activity 1.1:** Conduct ongoing research at the Strategic Analytics Lab. The C&D Lab staff has continued ongoing research that utilizes macro databases and other data assets to help understand underlying relationships among poverty, food security, technology, development assistance and conflict. C&D Center Assistant Director Shahriar Kibriya, C&D Center Director Edwin Price, and graduate students Jaehyun Ahn, Yu Zhang and Junyi Chen have led these research initiatives.

IR 1.3: Facilitate the integration of data and analytical results into decision-making processes in fragile and conflict-affected countries

Objective 2: Identify, assess, and foster scaling of development solutions for fragile and conflict-affected countries

IR 2.1: Identify development solutions for fragile and conflict-affected countries

- A C&D Lab intern identified cellphones as a potential transformative technology/approach for FCAS research. She conducted a literature review and gave two presentations to C&D staff and interns.
- A tool for assisting field staff to assess potential in-country lab partners called the “Institutional Assessment Survey (IAS)” was created by a C&D intern. The tool was used in the C&D Lab’s DRC institutional assessment visit.
- With funding provided by the H.G. Buffett Foundation through the H.G. Buffett Chair on Conflict and Development, several personnel were sent to assist with an Agricultural Assessment in North Kivu, DRC. The assessment consists of three parts; a survey performed by local personnel, focus groups by Catholic Relief Services, and local agribusiness interviews by C&D Lab members.
- In conjunction with the H.G. Buffett Foundation, further research and analysis was completed for the “Three Country” comparative survey. The survey explores food security, especially in relation to production and technology, among three countries with differing levels of conflict.
- An assessment tool for assessing concept notes and proposals of new approaches, technologies, or innovations was created.

IR 2.2: Assess the impact of development solutions for fragile and conflict-affected countries

IR 2.3: Create partnerships to foster scaling of development solutions for fragile and conflict-affected countries

In 2: Number of hubs created with human, financial, or institutional resources contributed by the C&D Lab

- The C&D Lab has identified DRC as the first country where we will create a hub. Members of the C&D Lab visited DRC in August. While there, they met with representatives from the USAID Mission to DRC and various universities in Kinshasa, Butembo, and Goma.
- Extensive communications between the C&D Lab and the US Mission to South Sudan have taken place in the early fall of 2013, with plans to engage on a joint project in the near future.

Objective 3: Expand the community of problem solvers to create a global network addressing development challenges in fragile and conflict-affected countries

IR 3.1: Engage students, faculty, and staff at Texas A&M and partner institutions in understanding and solving development challenges in fragile and conflict-affected countries

- **Activity 1.1:** The C&D Lab staff has organized the Conflict and Development Strategy Workshop among USAID staff, scholars and leaders to identify, assess, and prioritize the problems, constraints, and dilemmas that affect programs and development policies in and for fragile and conflict-affected states and determine how these issues will be effectively addressed by the C&D Lab. The C&D Lab staff have completed the following key organizational tasks in coordination with USAID counterparts in the first quarter:

- **Activity 3.1:** Design and provide a conflict and development undergraduate/graduate course. The C&D Lab has provided an undergraduate and graduate course on Conflict and Development at TAMU in the Spring 2013 term. Dr. Edwin C. Price, the Director of the C&D Lab, has delivered the course based on his experience administering development programs and conducting research in fragile and conflict-affected countries. The course is titled, “Economics of Foreign Intervention, Conflict, and Development,” and has covered economic and socio-political models of conflict, quantitative techniques and methods in conflict and development research, and the role of strategic sectors and stakeholder in conflict resolution and economic development. The C&D Lab staff completed the following tasks to present the course in the first quarter:
- **Activity 3.2:** Design and complete administrative processing to initiate the C&D Certificate. The C&D Certificate will provide undergraduate students from all academic backgrounds an opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge and understanding of the relationship between conflict and economic development. The C&D Lab staff has designed the 18 credit hour C&D Certificate curriculum and course syllabi with three specialized courses, “Economics of Foreign Intervention, Conflict, and Development,” “Conflict and Food Security in Asia and Africa,” and “Role of Science and Technology in Conflict and Poverty Alleviation.” These courses will be offered in the summer and fall 2013 sessions.
- **Activity 3.4:** Capstone Course. The C&D Lab has collaborated with the Bush School in the first quarter to conduct a Capstone Course. Through the Capstone, eight graduate students conducted in-depth reviews on Afghanistan, Burma, and the DRC, respectively, and provided recommendations for future research programs.

IR 3.1: Engage students, faculty, and staff at Texas A&M and partner institutions in understanding and solving development challenges in fragile and conflict-affected countries.

- Worked with various departments across TAMU, started internship and student grant programs, met with USAID Washington and USAID missions to discuss upcoming programs, and met with the University of William and Mary.

IR 3.2: Build a network of institutions (universities, development organizations, and firms) to support solving development challenges in fragile and conflict-affected countries

- Initiate and manage inter-college communication: Through targeted email correspondences, event support, and shared Senior Advisor personnel the C&D Lab has established and continues to strengthen effective working relationships with the primary TAMU institutional partners COALS, the Bush School, and the School of Rural Public Health.

IR 3.3: Build the capacity and durability of local institutions to resolve conflict and development challenges in fragile and conflict-affected countries.

- Gain official recognition from the Texas A&M University Board of Regents as a “University Center”: The C&D Lab staff have submitted proposals to relevant TAMU academic administrators for initial review. The approval process will include multi-stage reviews and revisions until the final proposal to establish the “C&D Center” gains approval from the TAMU Board of Regents.
- Design the Conflict and Development Advisory Board and the Conflict and Development Program Advisory Council: The C&D Lab has selected key partners from primary TAMU institutional partners COALS, Bush School, and SRPH to serve as Senior Advisors. These personnel will form the structural basis for the C&D Advisory Board. Additionally, the C&D Lab has established working relationships with faculty across the TAMU campus and partner institutions through engagement activities such as the launch event, workshop participation, and capstone course. These working relationships will be transitioned into the C&D Program Advisory Council.
- The C&D Lab completed its core staffing and support personnel for the C&D Lab:
 - Meaghan Kenney- Business Manager
 - Jerry Kenney- Network Coordinator
 - Dr. Leslie Ruyle- Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Coordinator and Academic Coordinator
 - Dr. Benjamin Tkatch- Postdoctoral Fellow
 - Jennifer Brazier- Business Administrator
 - Dr. Jendayi Frazer- Executive Professor
- **Activity 3.3:** Plan for student activities. The C&D Lab will promote student participation in seminars, workshops, and courses and support students to seek internships and other experiential learning opportunities with partner HESN institutions, government agencies, bilateral and multilateral organizations, NGOs, and other organizations involved in international humanitarian and development work. The C&D Lab employs three graduate students from the Bush School to assist with office duties:
 - Gabriel Vander Hey- assist with financial management and program coordination
 - Molly Walsh- assist in the business office
 - Julie Swensen- assist with M&E and student events

The C&D Lab funds four master’s students, four Ph.D. students, and supports thirteen student workers in four different departments, including our key partners of SRPH, Bush School, and School of AgriLife.

Part 3: High Value Areas of Collaboration [HVAC] (Lab-to-Lab)

In the first year the C&D Lab engaged fellow Development Labs through the HESN Launch event. During the rest of the year, the C&D Lab and the William and Mary Lab discussed opportunities for collaborative initiatives collecting, storing, analyzing, and disseminating conflict data. This partnership was further developed through site visits. The C&D Assistant Director, Dr. Shahriar Kibriya, and Network Coordinator, Jerry Kenney, visited the College of William and Mary. Dr. Kibriya and Mr. Kenney gave a presentation about the C&D Lab to students and faculty. The C&D Lab then invited members from the AidData consortium at the University of Texas- Austin to TAMU for a geocoding workshop, lecture, and collaboration meeting. The C&D Lab has also been coordinating with UC-Berkeley’s Big Ideas

project by recruiting students and staff for the contest, hosting promotional and learning events, and creating platforms for students to interact on the contest.

3.1. Data

The C&D Lab is ramping up its activities for data sharing with partner labs in year two.

3.2. Solutions (Creation, Testing, Scaling)

The C&D Lab has put the structure and process in place to create, test, and scale solutions in the upcoming years.

3.3 Student Engagement

This year was focused on creating a framework for student engagement.

Partner	Completed / Ongoing Activity [Indicate tie to activity number]	Outcome(s)
AidData William and Mary	Sub-PM 4.2.2	C&D Lab visit to William and Mary: presentation
AidData- University of Texas	Sub-PM 4.2.2	University of Texas visit to TAMU: Geocoding Workshop, Seminar, Collaboration meeting
UC-Berkeley	Sub-PM 4.2.2	Recruitment of students and faculty to the Big Ideas contest

3.4. Co-Location of Resources

The C&D Lab is seeking to engage with other development labs to leverage resources with other Labs in the future.

Part 4: Intra-Development Lab/ University Engagement

The C&D Lab has actively sought out partnerships with a broad cross-section of institutions on the TAMU campus including, the Bush School of Government, the School for Rural Public Health, and the College of Agrilife Sciences, and Liberal Arts.

4.1. Interdisciplinary Collaboration

The C&D Lab has promoted engagement across TAMU through several interdisciplinary initiatives. First, the C&D Lab has facilitated an effective working relationship among the three principal TAMU institutional partners: the COALS, the Bush School, and the SRPH. The C&D Lab has appointed at least one faculty of each of these TAMU institutional partners as C&D Senior Advisors. Senior Advisors appointed during the first year include Fred Boadu and David Bessler of the COALS, Andrew Natsios of the Bush School, and Rasul Ramji of the SRPH. Second, the C&D Lab has organized C&D Lectures, open meetings, and social events to support wide engagement across the university community. These events include the C&D Lab Launch, photo exhibit, and reception as well as the first C&D Lecture, which featured Larry Garber. These programs have attracted diverse attendees from numerous academic departments. When possible the C&D Lab uploads event videos, pressing materials, and meeting notes on the interim website for public access. Third, the C&D Lab has contacted representatives from multiple TAMU departments to participate as presenters and responders at the C&D Strategy Workshop in Washington, D.C. in April. Multidisciplinary engagement during the workshop will contribute to integrating the C&D Lab within the wider TAMU community, providing additional resources to draw upon during planning and implementation of C&D research programs.

- **C&D Co-hosted Ambassador Jendayi Frazer lecture with the Political Science Department: June 16-17, 2013**

The C&D Lab worked with the Political Science Department, part of the Liberal Arts College, to co-host Ambassador Jendayi Frazer's visit. The Political Science Department provided the lecture space while C&D provided refreshments.

- **Capstone Planning with SRPH and the Bush School: July 22, 2013**

The C&D Lab met with faculty members from the School of Rural Public Health and the Bush School to discuss a potential capstone project that would be conducted in the spring of 2014.

- **Bush School Career Services Visit to C&D Lab: July 26**

The Bush School Director of Career and Student Services, Dr. Matthew Upton, and Assistant Director, Michael Cochran, met with C&D Lab staff to discuss the summer internship and future opportunities to work collaboratively with C&D. The interns, all students at the Bush School, discussed their projects and experiences with working at the C&D Lab. C&D Lab staff discussed the importance of the interns' work to the C&D Lab and expressed a desire to the Bush School to continue the partnership.

4.2. Partner Engagement

In the first year the C&D Lab has strengthened partnerships and pursued engagement with additional partners, including with a National Science Foundation's Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program on campus called the Applied Biodiversity Science Program. This program recently

won an award for multi-disciplinary research from the university. The C&D Lab works closely with the HGBF and CDF on multiple food security and conflict mitigation projects in the DRC. Livelihoods initiatives in the DRC include collaboration with CRS. Additionally, the C&D Lab is partnering with IES to monitor previous agricultural and community development investments in Afghanistan. The C&D Lab has continued correspondence with KOICA and AKDN to explore opportunities for current and future programmatic synergies.

The following partners were engaged during the past fiscal year:

Partner	Partner Type (Funded/ Unfunded)	Location (City and Country)	Outcome(s)
TAMU Bush School	Funded	College Station, TX, USA	Work together on student engagement and research
TAMU School of Rural Public Health	Funded	College Station, TX, USA	Work together on student engagement and research
TAMU Agricultural Economics	Funded	College Station, TX, USA	Work together on student engagement and research
USAID Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation	Unfunded	Washington, D.C., USA	Coordinate on projects through HESN
USAID Civilian-Military Cooperation	Unfunded	Washington, D.C., USA	Coordinate on projects through HESN
USAID Office of Science and Technology	Unfunded	Washington, D.C., USA	Coordinate on projects through HESN
USAID Bureau for Africa	Unfunded	Washington, D.C., USA	Coordinate on projects through HESN
USAID Board of International Food and Agricultural Development	Unfunded	Washington, D.C., USA	
College of William and Mary	Unfunded	Williamsburg, VA, USA	Coordinate work through HESN
Aga Khan Foundation	Unfunded	Washington, D.C., USA	Attended C&D Workshop
Howard G. Buffett Foundation	Unfunded	Omaha, NE, USA	Financial donor and partner of C&D
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities	Unfunded	Washington, D.C., USA	C&D attended APLU conference
Aga Khan Development Network	Unfunded	N/A – consortium of organizations	Attended C&D Workshop
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Unfunded	Washington, D.C., USA	Attended C&D Workshop
California State University Fresno	Unfunded	Fresno, CA, USA	Attended C&D Workshop

Carnegie Mellon University	Unfunded	Pittsburgh, PA, USA	Attended C&D Workshop
Alliance for Peacebuilding	Unfunded	Washington, D.C., USA	Attended C&D Workshop
Mercy Corps	Unfunded	Portland, OR, USA	Attended C&D Workshop
Mountain Societies Research Institute, University of Central Asia	Unfunded	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	Attended C&D Workshop
World Vision	Unfunded	Federal Way, WA, USA	Attended C&D Workshop
University of Notre Dame	Unfunded	South Bend, IN, USA	Attended C&D Workshop
University of California Los Angeles	Unfunded	Los Angeles, CA, USA	Attended C&D Workshop
Stewart Global Solutions	Unfunded	Houston, TX, USA	Attended C&D Workshop
Emory University	Unfunded	Atlanta, GA, USA	Attended C&D Workshop
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum	Unfunded	Brooklyn, NY, USA	Attended C&D Workshop
George Mason University	Unfunded	Fairfax, VA, USA	Attended C&D Workshop
The Institute for State Effectiveness	Unfunded	Washington, D.C., USA	Attended C&D Workshop
Princeton University	Unfunded	Princeton, NJ, USA	Attended C&D Workshop
Michigan State University	Unfunded	East Lansing, MI, USA	Coordinate work through HESN
University of California San Diego	Unfunded	San Diego, CA, USA	Attended C&D Workshop
World Food Programme	Unfunded	Rome, Italy	Attended C&D Workshop
Duke University	Unfunded	Durham, NC, USA	Coordinate work through HESN
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Unfunded	Cambridge, MA, USA	Coordinate work through HESN
University of California Berkeley	Unfunded	Berkeley, CA, USA	Coordinate work through HESN
Makerere University	Unfunded	Kampala, Uganda	Coordinate work through HESN

4.3. Student Engagement

The C&D Lab has placed student engagement as one of our key priorities in the first year. We have several student engagement initiatives including providing new courses on the Economics of Conflict and Development, designing a C&D Certificate, establishing the C&D Internship Program, organizing a seminar series, and collaborating with key partners through a Capstone Course. The internship program

proved to be productive with students developing an assessment tool, innovative methods for data collection, and writing significant portions of the M&E Plan and quarterly reports. We continued with our Student Media Grants Program by promoting the blog of our first student grant recipient and requesting new applications for the next call for grants. The C&D Lab funds four master's students, four Ph.D. students, and supports thirteen other students in seven different departments across campus.

- **Capstone Project Completed**

The Bush School graduate group working on the C&D Capstone project and presented their results to Dr. Ticora Jones and Ms. Michelle L'Archeveque on the USAID TAMU visit.

- **Students Presence Recognized at Dr. Dehgan's Lecture**

C&D students attended Dr. Alex Dehgan's lecture and were recognized as being an integral part of the C&D Lab's mission.

- **Created C&D Internship Program**

The C&D Lab created an internship program in May 2013. Internships offered opportunities to work with research, program management, and reporting experiences. The summer 2013 Intern Cohort consisted of five graduate students from the Bush School for Government and Public Service. Two interns were assigned quantitative research projects under Dr. Shahriar Kibriya. Three interns worked under the supervision of Mr. Jerry Kenney with a qualitative research project, a program management project, and a monitoring evaluation project, respectively. The interns have analyzed data, presented literature reviews on emerging technologies, and contributed to the M&E Plan and current quarterly report. The interns have been actively engaged, preparing important documents for use within the institution as well as planning for future research trips. In early July, mid-summer evaluations were conducted with each of the five interns to discuss the progression of the internship. The C&D Lab also met with the Bush School's Career Services Director and Assistant Director to discuss the successes and challenges of the internship program and potential for continuing the internship.

- **Opened the 2013 Competition Student Media Grants Program**

The Student Media Grants Program (SMGP) is a photojournalism grant awarded to Texas A&M University students interested in using innovative methods to research and chronicle issues facing fragile and conflict-affected nations. The SMGP is awarded annually by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation Chair on Conflict & Development at TAMU. Applicants are expected to submit proposals that will describe their expected travel, research and photographic subjects. They should choose an international development area that reflects issues of food insecurity, health, education, land tenure, poverty, or other issues facing people in fragile and conflict-affected nations. The C&D Lab is requesting proposals for 2013 to undergraduate and graduate TAMU students. In the next quarter, the program will be opened up to students from any accredited university around the world.

- **Student employees represented TAMU and the C&D Lab at the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities Conference (APLU)**

Two graduate student employees attended the APLU Conference run by the Commission on International Initiatives about international engagement at American universities. At the conference, the APLU members discussed methods of improving international cooperation as well as how to increase participation of students abroad.

- **Series of Workshops, Lectures, and Brown Bags for students across TAMU**
 - Undergraduate Open House Information Session
 - Graduate Student Information Workshop
 - “Impacts of Environmental, Social, and Economic Factors on Rural Household Income in Xilin Gol, Inner Mongolia” Brown Bag by PhD Candidate Wenjuan Chen
 - AidData Geo-Coding Workshop by Dr. Michael Findley and Josiah Marineau from the University of Texas
 - “The Local Geography of Transnational Terrorist Attacks” Lecture by Dr. Mike Findley from the University of Texas

4.4. Student Highlights

The C&D Lab is promoting the work of four of our graduate students. Please see abstracts of their work below:

Yu Zhang, C&D funded PhD student in Agricultural Economics

The fundamental hypothesis of foreign assistance implementation is that an external foreign aid would lift all developing countries into regular growth as well as reduce violent conflicts, especially for conflict-affected/ post-conflict areas. However, there is a pessimistic/ skeptic opinion on the role of foreign aid, stating that the chief reason for lack of development progress in modern times is not the lack of aid. We use panel-autoregressive and graphic causal inference methods to analyze 85 developing countries in the globe, trying to recover both the static and dynamic causal relationships among development, conflict and foreign. This is an original attempt to analyze the country-level data with relatively small time periods. We find that foreign aid is incapable of achieving two goals simultaneously: for the poorest developing countries, foreign aid has a significant positive impact on socio-economic development but insignificant contribution on conflicts mitigation; while for the middle-income developing countries, foreign aid plays an opposite role. The aid-food inadequacy and aid-state fragility relationships are discussed, too.

Chris Bielecki, SMGP 2012 Award Winner

Using Participatory Rephotography to Monitor and Evaluate Food Security

International development agencies spend significant resources designing and implementing food security surveys. Although numbers vary, frequently 10 to 20% of a development program’s budget is spent on monitoring and evaluation (M&E), including conducting needs or baseline measurements. Agencies spend resources on survey design, training personnel, and field implementation. In fragile and conflict affected nations, collecting field data can be difficult and/or dangerous causing workers to collect inaccurate and incomplete data. Rarely do household food security surveys include community participation; data is collected by the agency, for use by the agency, and is rarely shared with communities. While food security surveys will most likely remain an important source of quantitative information, are there other methods which can: a) provide comparative baseline data, b) cost less and/or carry less risk for personnel, c) include community participation/capacity building components? “Participatory

rephotography” is an innovative social science research tool which collects data that can be used by both development agencies and local communities. Participatory rephotography involves training community members to detect food security changes by taking multiple photographs of the same theme over time with locally available technology such as disposable cameras and mobile phones. This tool was recently used in Guatemala to evaluate household nutrition; the photographs were subsequently used by public health workers during outreach events. Initial results show that this methodology could become a scaleable model helping development agencies and local communities understand food security issues. Future research and development efforts are working to integrate this tool into mobile communication platforms.

This innovation addresses the challenges international development agencies face allocating scarce resources between monitoring and evaluating food security programs and building local capacity. It addresses the agricultural development and public health sectors, more specifically, the nexus between agriculture, food security, and nutrition. Future applications include use in conflict affected/fragile regions where development agencies are unable or unwilling to assign staff.

Clemente Souhlande, C&D supported student in Agricultural Economics

Abstract of work

In the history, technology development has played tremendous role in agricultural revolutions. Basically, optimal use of production assets, improves consistently population access to food. However, the contrast is very remarkable in developing countries and Sub-Saharan Africa particularly, where cases of food insecurity are frequently reported. Several Sub-Saharan countries remain in the list of regions where the green revolution has not occurred. The situation seems exacerbated with conflicts. Yet conflicts generate displacement of population who cannot perform their normal farm activities. This document summarizes results based on previous studies conducted in Sub-Saharan Africa and then proposes a research project aiming to improve food security in the region. The project proposes to investigate and analyze the determinants of technology transfer and adoption in the socio-economical environment of Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition our project proposes to appraise the role of prior food insecurity status on conflicts development.

Gabriel Vander Hey, C&D student worker from the Bush School of Government

Abstract of work

Community Involvement in Conflict Mitigation:

The presentation/innovative approach to be presented at the Higher Education Solutions Network will focus on the Conflict and Development Lab’s approach of community involvement. The community driven development tactic is not completely novel but the approach suggested by the Conflict and Development Lab is. In Democratic Republic of Congo, university level researchers lack the resources and the ability to network within their country as well as to collaborate widely with outside actors who do. It is the belief of the Conflict and Development lab that these primary researchers, on the local level, are key to the success of any projects to be implemented on the ground. It is our plan to form a network of educators as well as practitioners within DR Congo in an effort to generate ideas internally

in country that our partners believe will benefit their communities the most. Through collaboration with institutional partners within DR Congo as well as with educators who can access greater resources outside of the country, researchers within DR Congo will be able to engage the broader academic community.

Part 5: USAID Engagement and Travel

5.1. USAID/Washington Interactions

The C&D Lab and the primary USAID support team have conducted weekly phone calls for most of the first year. Close communication via phone calls and email allow the C&D Lab and USAID to update one another on organizational decisions, upcoming events, reporting and logistics, program updates, and other priority areas.

Additionally, the C&D Lab has interacted with USAID staff through several visits and events during the first year.

- **HESN Launch in Washington, DC**

At the launch event the C&D Lab staff attended scheduled events and made contact with other HESN member institutions and USAID staff. This event marked the first opportunity for the C&D Lab staff to meet the USAID counterparts and support team.

- **Introductory HESN/USAID visit to TAMU**

The C&D Lab hosted Michelle L'Archeveque, Malcom Phelps, and Joseph Hewitt, the primary USAID support team, for two days in College Station, Texas. Meetings focused on making contacts with potential partners at TAMU, providing the background and objectives of the HESN, and conducting preliminary planning activities.

- **C&D Launch at TAMU**

The C&D Lab hosted Larry Garber for the formal launch of the C&D Lab at TAMU. Larry Garber presented a lecture to the TAMU community and participated in general planning sessions for the C&D Lab.

- **C&D Trip to Washington, DC**

C&D staff as well as members of the affiliated capstone group attended meetings with USAID bureaus and offices related to conflict and development, specifically to increase interest and USAID staff engagement in the C&D Strategy Workshop.

- **USAID Visit to TAMU**

USAID HESN members Dr. Alex Dehgan, Dr. Ticora Jones, and Ms. Michelle L'Archeveque visited TAMU. This visit provided C&D and USAID an opportunity to discuss upcoming events and research opportunities, brainstorm about fundraising opportunities, and consider future internal C&D Lab activities.

- **C&D Attendance at CMM Partner Day**

The C&D Lab's Assistant Director, Dr. Shahriar Kibriya, and Network Coordinator, Jerry Kenney, attended the USAID's Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation Partner's Day. Dr. Kibriya and Mr. Kenney attended sessions focused on integrating evaluation into programmatic planning in conflict environments and the status of the New Deal for engagement in fragile states. During and between

sessions there were opportunities to network with practitioners, scholars, and policymakers who are involved with development initiatives in FCASs from the public, private, and civil society sectors.

5.2. USAID Mission Interactions

Outline your interactions and engagement with USAID staff in Washington during this fiscal year. Explain the a) purpose of the engagement; b) what was discussed or accomplished; and c) any follow-up items that resulted. Please organize this section by the countries you interfaced with.

- **DRC Programs**

The C&D Lab had several phone calls with members from USAID HESN and the DRC USAID Mission calls leading up to a visit from the C&D Lab. During the phone calls, plans were made to meet with partner institutions to set up a field hub. The Mission provided a list of potential NGO partners and met with the C&D team on their arrival in DRC. The Mission showed interest in receiving institutional assessments completed by the C&D team from their visit. We used the assessment tool developed by a C&D intern.

- **South Sudan Programs**

The C&D Lab has had multiple phone calls and email exchanges with the South Sudan Mission planning possible joint projects. The C&D Lab has proposed several research initiatives to the Mission and is awaiting approval.

- **Afghanistan Programs**

The C&D Lab has had multiple email exchanges with the Afghanistan Mission planning possible joint projects. The C&D Lab has proposed several research initiatives to the Mission and is awaiting approval.

5.3. Travel

The following travel (domestic and international) using HESN funding occurred during the past fiscal year:

Location (City and Country)	Number of Travelers	Partner(s) Engaged (If applicable)	USAID Engagement (If applicable)	Outcome(s) & Next Steps
Washington, D.C., USA - Workshop	12		USAID representatives served as moderators and audience members.	Workshop Report and C&D's decision-making framework
North Kivu, DRC	3	Catholic Relief Services, IITA, HG Buffett Foundation, TAMU		Data gathering, we are currently evaluating those data
Angola	1	HG Buffett Foundation		Information gathering, possible proposal
DRC	4		USAID Mission to DRC	Data gathering, we are currently evaluating those data

Part 6: Monitoring & Evaluation

6.1. Progress Narrative

The C&D Lab is on track with our M&E targets for both our first fiscal year and the fourth quarter.

6.2. Monitoring & Evaluation Issues

The C&D Lab revised target goals on the year 2 workplan that was approved by USAID.

6.3. Update on Performance Indicators

Below are the updates on the performance indicators for Year 1. A full M&E report was submitted along with this Annual Report to document the full set of performance indicators as detailed in the M&E Plan.

Lab Ref.	Performance Indicator	FY12 Baseline	FY13 Target	FY 13 Actual
Gin1	Ratio of total value of outside (non-USAID) resources utilized to the dollar value of USAID investments.	0	\$800,000	\$854,675
Gin2	# of transformative innovations, technologies, or approaches that were developed with human, financial, or institutional resources contributed by C&D.	0	1	1
Gin3	# of transformative innovations, technologies, or approaches that were piloted with human, financial, or institutional resources contributed by C&D.	0	0	0
Gin4	# of transformative innovations, technologies, or approaches that were adopted with human, financial, or institutional resources contributed by C&D.	0	0	0
Gin5	# of transformative innovations, technologies, or approaches that were evaluated with human, financial, or institutional resources contributed by C&D.	0	1	1
Gin6	# of US students via C&D serving as fellows in developing countries (for more than one month).	0	3	11
O1in1	# of new data-related technologies, tools, approaches, and best practices supported or applied with human, financial, or institutional resources contributed by C&D.	0	1	2
O1in2	# of data-related analyses, mapping activities, and expert consultations provided for USAID operating units and	0	1	2

	programs, HESN partners, and the broader development community with human, financial, or institutional resources contributed by C&D.			
O2in1	Time required for developing, piloting, adopting, scaling, and evaluating transformative innovations, technologies, and approaches receiving human, financial, or institutional resources contributed by C&D.	0	Project Based	N/A
O3in1	# of participants in Hubs, summits, and other problem-solving institutions created with human, financial, or institutional resources contributed by C&D.	0	190	855
O3in2	# of Hubs created with human, financial, or institutional resources contributed by C&D.	0	1	0

Part 7: Lessons Learned / Good Practices

The C&D Lab has had multiple lessons learned and good practices to share from the first year of program implementation and are listed below.

- Engagement opportunities that complement existing initiatives in partner institutions, such as courses, the Capstone project, and other events, rather than create new initiatives have been the most effective.
- Consistent, frequent communication, such as the weekly phone calls, strengthens working relationships, encourages mutual accountability, and establishes effective planning mechanisms.
- Having a stable USAID support team has improved the C&D Lab's organization and performance in the HESN award.
- Recurring working visits to College Station and to Washington, D.C. have provided opportunities for promoting cohesion and resulted in periods of rapid productivity.
- Effective periods of collaboration have required designated, focused sessions, such as the Director's meeting.
- Clear opportunities for collaboration are emerging between Development Labs and opportunities to capitalize on synergies should be identified and encouraged by USAID
- Faculty participation is vital and the C&D Lab needs to find more ways to encourage faculty cooperation.
- The C&D Lab should continue to leverage USAID and TAMU's influences to achieve its objectives.
- Small scholarships were good incentives for increasing student participation.
- The APLU conference was a good venue for promoting the C&D Lab, but would probably be a better place for administration level C&D team members to make an impact.
- Students reported that they appreciated working with C&D Lab members and having meaningful projects. They cited lack of sufficient working areas as impeding their progress.
- Attending partner days and other meetings in DC is useful for C&D Lab members to network with new potential partners.
- USAID Missions are vital partners when setting up partnerships in FCASs. It also takes longer than we have expected to gain buy in from USAID Washington, Field Missions, and within the university. Sufficient time should be allotted to planning and confirmation of plans.
- The C&D Lab understands the need for collaboration with other Labs to solve distinct development challenges. We need to proactively seek out collaborations with other HESN partners and capitalizing on each Lab's strengths to enhance our problem solving capabilities.
- Collaborations must be approached with a clear plan in mind for what is expected on each side of the partnership.

Part 8: Appendix

8.1 List of Local and Online Press Announcements

- **TAMUTimes:** *Texas A&M Selected By USAID For Key Role In Solving International Development Challenges.* Link: <http://goo.gl/QJHry>
- **WTAW.com:** *A&M Selected for Federal Global Initiative.* Link: <http://goo.gl/mW6Yo>
- **The Battalion:** *Texas A&M named partner in global solutions network.* Link: <http://goo.gl/BTxl7>
- **College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Student Blog:** *Texas A&M Selected By USAID For Key Role In Solving International Development Challenges.* Link: <http://goo.gl/i7Ijt>
- **AgriLife Today:** *Proposed Center on Conflict and Development unveiled at Texas A&M.* Link: <http://goo.gl/zXZG4>
- **Bush Library:** *Conflict & Development: The Nexus of Animals, Environment, and the Human Condition.* Link: <http://goo.gl/fpb8G>
- **TAMUTimes:** *Center on Conflict & Development Workshop Webcasting Now.* Link: <http://goo.gl/Xmiu9>